Waiting List for Telephone Connections

112. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applicants waiting for telephone connections in different States as on April 1st, 1999; and

(b) what special steps have been taken to give more telephone connection in view of large number of applicants in the waiting list for telephone connections?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The details are given in the enclosed statement (*see* below)

(b) For clearing the waiting list, 45.50 lakh new telephone connections are planned during 1999-2000 and 53.30 lakh are proposed for the year 2000-01 and further efforts are being made for provision of more and more telephone connections.

Statement

The number of person on the waiting lists of new telephone connections in the country as on 1.4.99, State-wise:

Sl. No.	State	Waiting lists as on 1.4.99
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	83571
2.	Assam	17918
3.	Bihar	54549
4.	Gujarat (including Dadar Diu, Daman & Nagar Haveli)	170607
5.	Haryana	75444
6.	Himachal Pradesh	32263
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	33600
8.	Karnataka	95328
9.	Kerala (including Lakshadweep (U.T.)	577943
10.	Madhya Pradesh	22243

1	2	3
11.	Maharashtra (including Goa and Mumbai)	163454
12.	North East (including Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura)	5347
13.	Orissa	14990
14.	Punjab (including Chandigarh (U.T.)	153706
15.	Rajasthan	100754
16.	Tamil Nadu (including Chennai & Pondicherry (U.T.)	214716
17.	Uttar Pradesh	71364
18.	West Bengal (including Sikkim, Andaman & Nikobar Islands and Calcutta)	97453
19.	Delhi	0
	TOTAL	1985250

Functioning of Telephones in Nalanda Exchange (Bihar)

113. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that telephone connections in rural areas under Nalanda Exchange, (Bihar) remain out of order for weeks together and concerned officers even after being aware of the fault do not take any action;

(b) if so, whether Government have received any complaints in this regard particularly from the subscribers of Gajraj Bigha;

(c) if so, what action Government propose to take against the erring officials; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take to ensure that the telephone connections under Nalanda Exchange run satisfactorily?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) No Sir. Usually all faults are cleared within a week. One complaint was